

Message

From: Brumm, Peter [Brumm.Peter@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2015 9:18:00 PM
To: Vranka, Joe [vranka.joe@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Columbia Falls Aluminum Co.

Great, thanks Joe! I'll relay that information.

No further questions from me. You kept it pretty simple.

Much appreciated,

Peter Brumm
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8, Montana Office
10 West 15th Street, Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626
(406)457-5029

From: Vranka, Joe
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 3:09 PM
To: Brumm, Peter
Cc: Cirian, Mike; Peterson, Cynthia; Parker, Robert
Subject: Columbia Falls Aluminum Co.

Hi, Peter:

Thank you for letting me know you are sitting in for Julie at the Flathead Basin Commission meeting on Wednesday. I have included a copy of the press release for proposal of the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List. It includes contact information and indicates where comments can be sent on the proposed listing. There is a 60-day comment period on the proposal, and EPA will evaluate comments received before making a final decision on final listing. That decision will not come before this fall. EPA has already begun to approach potentially responsible parties for the site about beginning the investigation and cleanup process. The Remedial Project Manager assigned to the site is Mike Cirian, 406-293-6194 or cirian.mike@epa.gov, in Libby, Montana. EPA's web site for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. is <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/columbia-falls-aluminum-reduction-plant>.

So, I think the key messages for the site update item on the agenda for the Flathead Basin Commission meeting on Wednesday are:

- On March 26, 2015 EPA proposed to add the Anaconda Aluminum Company Columbia Falls Reduction Plant to the National Priorities List, making it eligible for comprehensive investigation and cleanup resources under EPA's Superfund program.
- There is a 60-day public comment period on the proposal.
- EPA will review and respond to all pertinent comments received on the proposed listing and will make a final decision on whether to add the site to the National Priorities List in a subsequent Federal Register notice – no earlier than fall 2015.
- EPA has already begun communicating with potentially responsible parties for the site to begin investigating the nature and extent of contamination and evaluating appropriate cleanup technologies.

For further information, parties are encouraged to contact the individuals identified above and below.

Please let me know if you need anything further for sitting in for Julie on Wednesday.

Thank you,

Joe

EPA proposes Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant site for Superfund designation (Montana)

Release Date: 03/24/2015

Contact Information: Rob Parker, 303-312-6664, parker.robert@epa.gov; Richard Mylott, 303-312-6654, mylott.richard@epa.gov

Proposed addition to the National Priorities List is subject to a 60-day public comment period

(Denver, Colo. – March 24, 2015) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today proposed adding the Anaconda Aluminum Company's Columbia Falls Reduction Plant (also known as the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Plant), near Columbia Falls, Mont., to the National Priorities List (NPL) making it eligible for additional study and cleanup resources under EPA's Superfund program. The proposed listing will be subject to a 60-day public review and comment period beginning on March 26. Superfund is the federal program that investigates and cleans up the country's most complex, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites to protect public health and the environment.

The proposed Superfund site, located approximately two miles northeast of Columbia Falls, operated as a primary aluminum reduction facility between 1955 and 2009. Contaminants detected at the site include cyanide, fluoride and metals, including arsenic, chromium, lead, and selenium. These contaminants are present in soils, surface ponds, and groundwater at the site and pose a risk to nearby wells and the Flathead River. EPA and the State of Montana have determined that a comprehensive investigation of the site is necessary to inform effective cleanup actions to address these risks.

"EPA will continue to work closely with the local community, the state of Montana, and the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company to ensure a comprehensive investigation of the site is completed," said Shaun McGrath, EPA's regional administrator in Denver. "These efforts will identify cleanup actions needed to address human health and environmental concerns and will advance the community's interest in the redevelopment of this important property along the Flathead River."

The City of Columbia Falls supports the addition of the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant site to the NPL and Montana Governor Steve Bullock has concurred. Senator Jon Tester and numerous community organizations have also expressed their support. EPA will carefully evaluate all public comments received on the proposed listing before making a final decision.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the law establishing the Superfund program. Superfund's passage was a giant step forward in cleaning up legacy industrial waste sites to help ensure human health and environmental protection. The Superfund law gives EPA the authority to clean up releases of hazardous substances with the goal of returning them to productive use.

The NPL contains the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites. The list serves as the basis for prioritizing both enforcement actions and long-term EPA Superfund cleanup funding; only sites on the NPL are eligible for such funding. A site's listing neither imposes a financial obligation on EPA nor assigns liability to any party.

The Superfund program has provided important benefits for people and the environment since Congress established the program in 1980. Those benefits are both direct and indirect, and include reduction of threats to human health and ecological systems in the vicinity of Superfund sites, improvement of economic conditions and quality of life in communities affected by hazardous waste sites, prevention of future releases of hazardous substances, and advances in science and technology.

For more information on the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/columbia-falls-aluminum-reduction-plant>

Federal Register notice and supporting documents for the proposed site:
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/current.htm>